

**US 101 REGIONAL CIRCULATION PROJECT  
STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE MEETING #1  
Port of Grays Harbor Commission Chamber  
August 8, 2006  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Meeting Summary**

**ATTENDEES:**

Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam  
Gary Nelson, Port of Grays Harbor  
Ray Pumphrey, Hoquiam Fire Dept  
Leonard Barnes, Port of Grays Harbor  
Kathryn Crawford, Exeltech Consulting  
Bernie Chaplin, Exeltech Consulting  
Vicki Cummings, Council of Governments  
Theresa Julius, Council of Governments  
Nancy Trask, Council of Governments

John Perlic, Parametrix  
Joshua Johnson, Parametrix  
John Hart, WSDOT Aberdeen Office  
T.J. Nedrow, Olympic Region WSDOT  
Nazmul Alam, Olympic Region WSDOT  
Vicki Steigner, Olympic Region WSDOT  
Debbie Clemen, Olympic Region WSDOT  
Yvette Liufau, Olympic Region WSDOT

**I. Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Vicki Cummings, Executive Director for the Grays Harbor Council of Governments (GHCOG). The project team was introduced and includes Vicki Cummings and Nazmul Alam (WSDOT) as Project Leads, and John Perlic (Parametrix), as technical assistance.

Project binders were distributed to the stakeholder committee. Binders will also be distributed to those members who were not present. Binders included a project area map, a meeting schedule, and the synopsis of past studies along the corridor. [Additional information will be distributed as necessary].

**II. Project Synergy**

**A. Past History**

Vicki explained how the project began with Senator Doumit setting aside \$500,000 [SSB 6241] during the 2005 Legislative Session for a regional planning study regarding congestion mitigation improvements and mobility issues along US 101 within the vicinity of Aberdeen. The study boundary was then expanded to include US 12 at Sargent Boulevard, SR 109 from US 101 to the SR 109 Spur (east), US 101 to the SR 109 Spur (west), and US 101 in Cosmopolis at Blue Slough Road. GHCOG is partnering with WSDOT on the project since the GHCOG does transportation planning for the communities within Grays Harbor County and serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Organization. WSDOT will guide the overall process and develop the final document.

Nine (9) separate studies have been done and these studies will be used as the beginning point of the project [refer to the “Synopsis” section of the notebook].

Vicki addressed what had taken place up to this point in the project:

- Preliminary stakeholder meetings in the community were held with County Commissioners, Mayors & staff, WSDOT Aberdeen Project and Maintenance staff, the Port of Grays Harbor, Grays Harbor Transit, emergency response staff, Grays Harbor Economic Development Council, and Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce.
- The Stakeholder Committee has been established and the schedule of meetings set.  
Stakeholder Committee Meeting #2, September 12, 2006 @ 1:00 p.m.,  
Location: Port of Grays Harbor, 111 South Wooding Street, Aberdeen [rescheduled]  
  
Stakeholder Committee Meeting #3, October 24, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.,  
Location: Port of Grays Harbor, 111 South Wooding Street, Aberdeen  
  
Public Open House Meeting #1, September 26, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.,  
Location: Port of Grays Harbor, 111 South Wooding Street, Aberdeen  
  
Public Open House Meeting #2, November 14, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.,  
Location: Port of Grays Harbor, 111 South Wooding Street, Aberdeen
- Synopses of past studies and current findings have been completed.
- Compilation of traffic analysis elements is in the beginning stages and the results will be presented at the second stakeholder meeting in September.

## **B. Project Purpose**

Senator Doumit secured the funds for the regional planning study. Those funds came with the caveat that the study region, must supply a prioritized list of recommendations to the Senator by mid-November. He will, in turn, try to help find funding for those identified priorities during the next legislative session. According to the Senator, projects that rank high in this process must have broad regional impact and alleviate problems within a variety of jurisdictions.

## **C. Project Goals**

The goals of the project were identified as follows:

- Community participation.
- Start with what we know.
- Build consensus
- Submit Priority Recommendation List by mid-November.
- Final report, early Spring of 2007

### **III. Priority Ranking Criteria**

Vicki discussed the need to develop criteria (for rating and ranking project alternatives) that is meaningful and measurable adding that the measurements chosen must also be fair and equitable.

John Perlic discussed the goals and priority ranking criteria. The goals and criteria were developed using regionally adopted goals and objectives from the Grays Harbor County Region Surface Transportation Program, the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Plan, and the Washington Transportation Plan.

The group discussed the proposed goals and criteria and suggested the following revisions. Changes are noted in yellow highlight.

#### **Goal 1: Promote Regional Solutions**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Measurements</b>
Does the alternative serve important regional and local destinations?	Relative degree in which the project serves important community destinations
Does the alternative have broad regional support?	Relative degree of project support, opposition, and multi-agency partnering opportunities
Is the alternative regional in nature?	Benefit to regional through travel and tsunami evacuation routes

#### **Goal 2: Promote Economic Vitality and Growth**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Measurements</b>
Does the alternative support economic growth?	Relative improvement in overall economic prosperity
Does the project improve access to tourist destinations and economic centers?	Relative degree in which the improvement enhances accessibility to tourist destinations and economic centers
Is it a cost effective investment?	Cost effectiveness, including long-term maintenance costs for aging infrastructure
Does it have any negative impact to local businesses?	Business access or parking impacts
Does project have potential environmental impacts and mitigation costs?	Relative degree of environmental impacts and mitigation cost

### Goal 3: Support Multimodal Solutions (freight, rail, transit, pedestrian)

Criteria	Measurements
Does it reduce delay at intersections?	2006 & 2030 PM peak hour Level of Service (LOS)
Does it improve safety?	Accident reduction potential
Does it reduce the impact of bridge openings or provide an alternate local route?	Delay reduction
Does it improve efficient movement of freight and goods to business and services?	Proximity to freight oriented businesses <b>and impact or benefit to rail transportation</b>
Does it improve transit access or reliability?	Number of transit routes improved
Does it encourage pedestrian or bicycle travel or improve safety?	Improvement to pedestrian or bicycle travel

The goals and criteria will be used to rank projects.

#### **IV. Past Recommendation Synopsis**

Vicki presented a synopsis of the recommendations from previous studies and local plans and policies that are within the project area. These included:

- Synopsis of nine formal studies that affect the study area and current findings.
- Current findings - recent plans, policies and projects of the Cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Cosmopolis, the Port of Grays Harbor and Grays Harbor Transit that affect the study area.
- Other recommendations - non-study related information such as projects identified in the Regional Transportation Plan, pre-study stakeholder recommendations, and operational improvements for the Cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis. (Operational improvements are roadway projects identified by each city that if implemented would help improve the flow of traffic without the need for major construction.)

#### **V. Next Meeting Date**

The Stakeholder Committee will reconvene again on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> [rescheduled]. Topics of discussion for the second meeting will include: activities that have occurred since the first

meeting, traffic analysis and accident data reports, land use and future growth and development scenarios, and water, rail, and bridge operations research findings.

WSDOT has a dedicated web site for this project is at:

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/studies/US101/Aberdeen](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/studies/US101/Aberdeen)

Due to the small turnout of stakeholders, it was suggested that the future meetings be moved from evening to daytime. The project team will consider this suggestion.

There being no further discussions, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Nancy L. Trask  
Office Coordinator  
GHCOG